(d) During the cotton season 2008-09, the Government has taken steps to provide appropriate price to cotton growers and substantially increased the Minimum Support Price of two basic varieties of cotton from 1800 and Rs.2030 per quintal to Rs. 2500 and Rs 3000 per quintal in the year 2008-09 in resoect of F-414/H-777/J34 and H-4 respectively.

Plans for RKVS, NFSM AND NHM

716. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the plans being made for 'Rashtriya Krishi VikasYojana', 'National Food Security Mission' and 'National Horticulture Mission'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Pursuant to the resolution adopted on 29.05.07 by the National Development Council (NDC), to reorient the current agricultural development strategies to meet the needs of the farmers and for fresh efforts by the Central and State Governments to rejuvenate agriculture so as to achieve 4% annual growth during the 11th Five Year Plan, a new State Plan Schemes of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for agriculture and allied sectors, namely, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched during 2007-08 with and envisaged outlay of Rs.25,000/- crore for the 11th Five Year Plan. Brief Note in respect of RKVY is enclosed as Statement-I. (*See* below).

National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

In view of the resolution adopted by the National Development Council (NDC) to launch a Food Security Mission in the country to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tones, respectively by the end of XI Plan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'National Food Security Mission' has been launched from Rabi, 2007-08 with three major components *viz.* NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses. Brief Note in respect of NFSM is enclosed as Statement-II (*See*
below).

National Horticulture Mission (NHM)

As per the guidelines of NHM, the State Horticulture Missions and Implementing Agencies send their Annual Action Plan proposals to the Central Government for approval of Executive Committee of the National Horticulture Mission. The Action Plans are examined and based on the approval, funds are released to the tune of 85% as central share while 15% is contributed by State Government as state share. In case of National Level Agencies the assistance is 100%. Funds are released keeping in view the unspent balances of previous years. The process of release of funds for 2009-10 has been imitated under the scheme.

Statement-I

Brief note on Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

1. Pursuant to the resolution adopted on 29-05-2007 by the National Development Council (NDC), to reorient the current agricultural development strategies to meet the needs of the farmers and

for fresh efforts by the Central and State Governments to rejuvenate agriculture so as to achieve 4% annual growth during the 11th Five Year Plan, a new State Plan Scheme of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for agriculture and allied sectors, namely, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) has been launched during 2007-08 with an envisaged outlay of Rs. 25,000/- crore for the 11th Five Year Plan.

2. The broad objective of RKVY is to provide additional central assistance(ACA)to the States to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors in the 11th Five Year Plan. The new scheme requires the States to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for creation of such infrastructure, which are essential to catalyse the existing production scenario for achieving higher production.

3. ACA is made available to the States as 100% grant. The States have full autonomy in the process of selection, planning, approval and execution of schemes. Funds is allocated to the States is in two streams *viz*. Stream-I and Stream-II and are routed through the State Agriculture Department, which is the nodal Department for the scheme. Under Stream-I, at least 75% of the RKVY funds are made available for specific projects as part of the State and District Plans. Under Stream-II, upto 25% of the total RKVY funds to a State are made available for strengthening existing State Sector schemes.

4. Under the Scheme, the following broad activities have been identified for focus attention - Integrated Development of Food Crops, including coarse cereals, minor millets and pulses; Agriculture Mechanization; Soil Health and Productivity; Development of Rainfed Farming Systems; Integrated Pest Management; Market Infrastructure; Horticulture; Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries; Concept to Completion Projects that have definite timelines; Support to Institutions that promote Agriculture and Horticulture, etc.; Organic and Bio-fertilizers; and Innovative Schemes. These activities are only indicative in nature.

5. The Scheme has been operationalized with effect from August, 2007 and has evoked good response from the States. During the year 2007-08 an outlay of Rs. 1500 crore was approved, of which an amount of Rs. 1246.89 crore including Rs.48 crore @ Rs. 10 lakh per district for preparation of District Agriculture Plan(DAP) was released to the States under the programme.

6. For the year 2008-09, an outlay of Rs.2891.70 crore was provided and an amount of Rs.2886.80 crore has been released to the eligible States as on 31.03.2009. For the year 2009-10, an outlay of Rs. 4100 crore has been allocated and Rs.506.13 crore has been released to the States, so far. The exercise for SLSC meetings, project approval and release of funds has been started.

7. The Union Government is making efforts to provide assistance to the States to raise the income of the farmers who are engaged in Agriculture and allied sectors through RKVY. However, the objectives of this programme will only be met if the State Governments are able to prepare their State Agriculture Plan and District Agriculture Plan keeping in mind the inherent agro-climatic

potential of the State and dove-tail creation of appropriate infrastructure, which will lead to higher productivity and thereby higher production.

8. Since implementation of RKVY is aimed at higher production of food grains and other agro-based products, it is also the time for intervention of the Industrial sector by planning its future activities on handling the enhanced agricultural production to enable better return to the farmers and also reduce perishable losses. Increase in production will require improved packaging and marketing for better return to the farmers, which can be translated through private investment, entrepreneurship and managerial capabilities. There will be more demand on creation for processing industries, storing facilities, improved transport mechanism. It's when the farmers get more return for their enterprise, that they will strive more foi higher production leading to higher contribution of agriculture sector to the overall GDP. Therefore, though the Central Government is providing financial assistance to the State Government with full freedom to formulate its action plan for increasing productivity and production under the agriculture sector, it is for the State Governments and the other stake holders to convert this assistance into reality of food security.

Statement-II

Brief note on NFSM

Introduction :

In view of the resolution adopted by the **National Development Council (NDC)** to launch a **Food Security Mission** in the country to **enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tones, respectively by the end of XI Plan**, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'National Food Security Mission' has been launched from Rabi, 2007-08 with three major components **viz.** NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses.

Objectives:

The aim of the Mission is to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility and productivity; creating employment opportunities; and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence of farmers of targeted districts.

Area of Operation:

The National Food Security Mission is presently **being implemented in 312 identified districts of 17 States** of the country. The component-wise identified districts are as follows:

NFSM-Rice: The NFSM-Rice is being implemented in **136 districts of 14 States**, *i.e.,* Andhra Pradesh (11 districts), Assam (13 districts), Bihar (18 districts), Chhattisgarh (10 districts), Gujarat (2 districts), Jharkhand (5 districts), Karnataka (7 districts), Kerala (1 district), Madhya Pradesh (9 districts), Maharashtra (6 districts), Orissa (15 districts), Tamil Nadu (5 districts), Uttar Pradesh (26 districts) and West Bengal (8 districts),

NFSM-Wheat: The NFSM-Wheat is being implemented in 141 **districts of** 9 **States** *i.e.* Bihar (25 districts), Gujarat (4 districts), Haryana (7 districts), Madhya Pradesh (30 districts), Maharashtra (8 districts), Punjab (10 districts), Rajasthan (15 districts), Uttar Pradesh (38 districts) and West Bengal (4 districts).

NFSM-Pulses: The NFSM-Pulses is being implemented in 171 **identified districts in** 14 **States** *i.e.*, Andhra Pradesh (14 districts), Bihar (13 districts), Chhattisgarh (8 districts), Gujarat (11 districts), Haryana (5 districts), Karnataka (13 districts), Madhya Pradesh (20 districts), Maharashtra (18 districts), Orissa (10 districts), Punjab (7 districts), Rajasthan (16 districts), Tamil Nadu (12 districts), Uttar Pradesh (19 districts) and West Bengal (5 districts).

Criteria For Identification of Districts Under NFSM:

For Rice, those districts were identified which have more than 50,000 ha area under rice and productivity less than the State's average productivity; for wheat the districts in which irrigation coverage under wheat is more than 50% and productivity is less than State's average were identified. The districts for implementation of NFSM-Pulses have been selected based on existing large area under pulses, potential for area expansion through inter-cropping and utilization of rice fallows.

Strategies:

The following main strategies are being followed under the scheme:

1. Implementation in a mission mode through active engagement of all the stakeholders at various levels;
2. Promotion and extension of improved technologies *i.e.* seed, integrated nutrient management including micro-nutrients, soil amendments, IPM and resource conservation technologies along with capacity building of farmers;
3. Flow of fund would be closely monitored to ensure that interventions reach the target beneficiaries in time;
4. Various interventions proposed would be integrated with the district plan and targets for each identified districts would be fixed; and
5. Constant monitoring and concurrent evaluation for assessing the impact of the interventions for a result oriented approach by the implementing agencies.

Interventions included:

NFSM-Rice: The interventions covered under **NFSM-Rice** include demonstrations on improved package of practices; System of rice intensification; hybrid rice technology; promotion of hybrid rice seeds-production & distribution; distribution of HYVs seeds; seed minikits; micro-nutrients; liming;: conoweeders; zero till seed drills; multi-crop planters; seed drills; rotavators, pump sets, power weeders, knap sack sprayrs; plant protection chemicals & bio-pesticides; farmers field schools; local initiatives; award for best performing districts; mass media campaign; international exposures for technical knowledge enrichment and project management team.

NFSM-Wheat: The interventions covered under **NFSM-Wheat** include demonstrations on improved package of practices; Seed replacement; seed minikits; micro-nutrients, gypsum; zero till seed drills; rotavators; multi-crop planters; seed drills; sprinkler sets; knap sack sprayers; pump sets, pilot project on community generators; farmers field schools, award for best performing districts; local initiatives; international exposures for technical knowledge enrichment and project management team.

NFSM-Pulses: The interventions covered under **NFSM-Pulses** include assistance in the form of production & purchase of breeder seeds; production of foundation & certified seeds; distribution of certified seeds; strengthening of seed certification agencies; INM; 1PM, sprinklers sets; zero till seed drills; multi-crop planters; seed drills; rotavators; sprinkler sets; knap sack sprayers; pump sets; farmers field schools; training for extension workers; award for best performing districts; local initiatives; strengthening of infrastructure of IIPR, Kanpur; pilot project on blue bull; demonstration of ICRISAT technologies and project management team.

The total outlay of National Food Security Mission for the Eleventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 4882.48 crores. During 2009-10, an amount of Rs. 1350.00 crores has been made as Budget Allocation.

Plans to boost farm production

717. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the Plans made for creating Food Safety Net and to boost Farm produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): The Government of India is already implementing various schemes for enhancing the production of foodgrains in the country such as Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). Besides, to increase production of fruits & vegetables, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is also in operation in the country.

Production of Rice

718. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of rice in the country last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rice production in India is l/3rd of that of China and half compared to Vietnam; and

(c) if so, the steps Government is contemplating to increase the rice production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The total estimated production of rice in the country during 2007-08 stood at 96.69 million tones.